



LIFE, STYLE & DESIGN

There's more to a home than bricks and mortar

Make Australia proud

ABOUT THE HOUSE

with Sami Muirhead



GO on girls, buy that new red wool rug today, or grab that new sheet set you have been drooling over. Not only is it good for your soul, but you are partially helping the country dodge shrapnel from the global financial crisis fall out.

So good on you if you splurged too much at Freedom's floor stock sale or spent way too much on a new saucepan set. You are single handedly, and in a most unselfish act, helping our economy. But let's get back to the material stuff, as that is far more interesting than number crunching. It seems single gals, mums, and women of all ages have been going on a bit of a binge at shopping centres and indulging in a bit of retail therapy. The average Aussie family spent six per cent more at shopping centres that when the global financial crisis hit in September last year.

Homewares and clothing have topped the list for what we shoved into our cars to then unpack at home. Last month alone we spent a record and dizzying \$19.55 billion in a retail splurge around Australia.

Sure there are tough times ahead. Unemployment is tipped to climb and those low carb and yummy interest rates simply have to go up, eventually. The latest report by Access Economics titled 'Chk Chk Boom; Has Australia dodged the bullet?' does warn hurdles lie ahead but it also says we just may be through the worst.

So I know all the naysayers will say this is highly irresponsible but I am sick of the negativity and the worrying. It is Saturday, the sun is shining, so for one day at least I will stop stressing about my credit card and indulge in a little more retail therapy to make Australia proud.



ON THE EDGE: The award-winning home has simple functional design aspects drawing you to the ocean views.

Winner is 'just breathtaking'

A STUNNING three-level home that hangs from its sloping beachfront site at Noosa's southern beaches has taken out the Master Builders' Sunshine Coast House of the Year.

Built by Braeden Constructions and designed by SBT Design, the house is the result of close consultation with the owner.

It is the highlight for Braeden's Mick Devlin, in a career of building houses and commercial buildings for the past 14 years after having learnt the trade with his father.

"The site was demanding because of the slope and the sand," he said. "It was always a challenge ... but makes it interesting. The setting was incredible."

Mick, who has won a number of MBA awards in recent years, said he had done a job for the owner previously and they had spoken about the site.

"He had spent time overseas so he had snippets of design ideas he liked," Mick said. "I recommended he see Ben Thornton from SBT Design. They brought the whole design together between the two of them."

"The concept was breathtaking, the way it hangs on the edge. It's a simple design that



works well ... it doesn't have the intricacies of some other houses.

"You walk through the front door and are instantly drawn to the ocean ... the wet-edge pool as well. It's not over-complicated. There is a nice focus."

Master Builders Sunshine Coast regional manager Stephen Robinson said the judges were particularly impressed with the design and liveability aspects of this outstanding home with its uniquely industrial style and the adventurous use of materials perfectly suited for the relatively-harsh beachfront environment.

On entering the front gate you are greeted by a beautiful reflection pond and island deck that is sheltered from the elements. Then your attention is immediately taken by the expansive glass door entry with the views straight through to the ocean.

Step through the entry and you are treated to a huge open floor plan, with soaring ceilings and brilliant use of feature materials such as galvanised steel, zinc and Perspex sheeting, much of which is skilfully framed with dressed spotted gum hardwood timber to enhance the visual experience.

Instead of long, boring dark corridors, interesting spaces are created, natural light is utilised and the lines between rooms are blurred.

The home has an amazing kitchen at its hub, with a concrete and marble bench top and airline style overhead cupboards. Hydraulic rams are used to open the kitchen windows and in doing so open the whole house up.

The exterior of the house is clad in zinc sheeting to counter the harsh elements. With copper downpipes and guttering, it weathers in time and makes it more interesting rather than looking worn out.

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